

NOTICE

Issued by the Department of

Planning & Growth Management

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Charles County
Government

Department of
Planning & Growth
Management

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Equal Opportunity
County
Say No To Drugs

The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 **REVISED JUNE 18, 2012**

Please be advised that the State of Maryland recently adopted legislation that will go into effect on July 1, 2012. This legislation will restrict the use of septic systems for new development in accordance with various "Tier" mapped areas throughout the county. Although Counties in Maryland are not required to participate and implement the requirements of the Act, it is anticipated that Charles County will choose to do so. Therefore, this notice is being distributed for public consideration.

In order to implement the provisions of the legislation, the County must adopt four areas to be mapped and designated as "Tiers". The first tier areas are those areas with public sewerage. The second tier areas are those planned for sewerage and in which septic systems are temporary. The third tier areas are those for which on-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems) are permitted for large lot rural development and are not dominated by agricultural or forest land. The fourth tier areas are those areas designated Rural Legacy, Priority Preservation Areas and also land dominated by agriculture or forests and for conservation. These areas are limited to allowing only minor subdivisions.

The legislation includes grandfathering provisions and there are several important dates as follows:

1. July 1, 2012: This is the deadline to submit an application for soil percolation tests to the Health Department for all lots that will be included in the submission for preliminary plan approval. Within 18 months after approval of the soil percolation tests, a submission for preliminary plan approval must be made for those same lots.
2. October 1, 2016: This is the deadline for obtaining an approved preliminary plan.

Please be advised of these dates and plan accordingly.